

# MICHIGAN LEGWORK

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

MAY 2005

## You Could Be Governor Granholm's Running Mate!

A **TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY HAS** arisen for state employees who enjoy running. The Department of Labor & Economic Growth has been invited by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to name two individuals to represent DLEG by running with her during the Labor Day Bridge Run.

Gov. Granholm began a new Labor Day tradition last year when she launched the first-ever Labor Day Bridge Run to kick off the Mackinac Bridge Walk. Three hundred Michigan runners were invited to initiate this run via a lottery system. Those who participated said running across the Mighty Mac as the sun rose was an unforgettable experience!

This year a select group of state employees representing every department will join this group. Because of the size of our department, we are allowed two representatives. To make it fair, we will have a random drawing of entries.

It's important to note that while this is not a timed event, you must be able to run five miles without stopping. To enter, you should have completed other running events of equal or greater length and know you will be able to finish the entire five-mile run without assistance.

If selected, you will:

- ❖ Enjoy a pasta dinner the night before with fellow runners
- ❖ Kick off the traditional Mackinac Bridge Walk
- ❖ Experience running the Mighty Mac at sunrise
- ❖ Receive a commemorative T-shirt
- ❖ Be listed in the official 2005 Event Yearbook

The application form (see page 16) must be completed and submitted to the DLEG Media & Public Relations office by 5 p.m., Friday, May 20, for you to qualify for the drawing. If you have questions, please send an e-mail message to [mediainfo@michigan.gov](mailto:mediainfo@michigan.gov).

The two selected DLEG representatives — and two alternates — will be announced by Friday, May 27.



The Mackinac Bridge — connecting two peninsulas.

You may also enter the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness lottery for one of the 300 other spots available to all Michigan runners. To qualify for the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness lottery, you must have completed one of the endorsed events and fill out a registration form at <http://www.michiganfitness.org> by June 29.

Trivia questions about the Mackinac Bridge:

- 1) What is the total length of the bridge?
- 2) On what date was the bridge open to traffic?
- 3) In what year did construction of the bridge begin?

You can find the answers on pg. 6.

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Christine Coon, daughter of Gina DiNatale Coon, met Director Hollister during "Take Your Child to Work Day."

# A Message from the Director

What a great day Thursday, April 28, was!

DLEG celebrated "Take Your Child to Work Day" in grand style, and so I would like to devote this month's column to highlighting the many activities that took place across the state.

I was privileged to participate in the "DLEG Is a Cool Place to Work" presentations held at the Williams Building Auditorium here in Lansing. Thirteen staff from various agencies and bureaus in our department described the work they do and how they chose and prepared for their careers. About 100 sons and daughters of DLEG employees and their parents (and some grandparents) attended.

Appreciation goes to Irvin Poke, Bureau of Construction Codes; Brandy Minikey and Patrick Hudson, Energy Office; Chuck Kieffer, MSHDA; Joseph Grutza, Office of Firefighter Training; Gina DiNatale Coon, Media & Public Relations; Karen Gagnon and Robert Johnson, Cool Cities Initiative; Duncan Wyeth, Commission on Disability Concerns; LMell Smith, Bureau of Workers' Compensation; Jim Smiertka, Executive Office; Jack Finn, Wage & Hour Division; and Robert Moore, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, for the "cool" messages they imparted to these youngsters.

The children were encouraged to choose a field they truly enjoy; consider a career in which they help other people or help the environment; volunteer now to make their communities a better place; not let a fear of one aspect of a career stop them from considering that career; and stay in Michigan after they finish their schooling. They also learned about apprenticeships, laws governing the employment of minors, and required subjects and educational levels for specific occupations.

At the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) in Detroit, 50 young people spent a portion of the day at their parents' workstations, where they saw the various skills needed to work in the call center. At the Grand Rapids RICC, 19 kids learned about the role of the RICC and toured the center, including the Work Distribution Center that handles incoming mail. The Saginaw RICC welcomed 37 children, who toured the center and the nearby Problem Resolution Office. The youngsters were able to see how both locations are set up.

At Cadillac Place in Detroit, 78 children, ranging in age from 5 to 17, were given an official welcome, then spent the morning working. Some filed, while others stuffed or labeled envelopes or opened, sorted and date-stamped mail. Mary Washington, who organized the day at Cadillac Place, said, "It was a busy day, but it also gave the children some insight into the work day of their parents, and some commented that their children were so exhausted after their day at 'work' that they fell asleep on the way home."

Many of the youngsters who visited DLEG on April 28 entered the "Cool Places to Work 2005 Art Contest." They had their choice of drawing a picture of their mom or dad and what they do for DLEG, or a picture of themselves when they are grown up — at their cool place to work. The entries will be judged by age group — 5–8, 9–12, and 13–18 — with three winners from each age group selected. I look forward to a "cool" luncheon with these budding artists later this summer!

My sincere thanks to the many, many DLEG employees who contributed to the success of the day, with special thanks to Linda Cook and Alisande Henry, who co-chaired the statewide event. Please see photos of many of the day's participants on pages 4 and 5.

Regards,

David C. Hollister



Michigan Department of  
Labor & Economic Growth

## MICHIGAN LEGWORK

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Articles/photos may be e-mailed to [breenl@michigan.gov](mailto:breenl@michigan.gov) or faxed to 517/241-1580. The Department of Labor & Economic Growth is an equal opportunity employer/program. This newsletter will be made available in alternate formats on request.

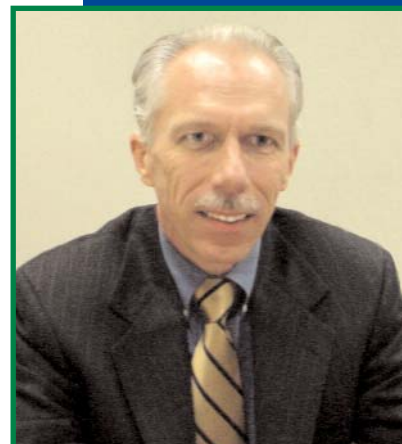
# Visteon's Richard Waclawek Named to Lead Labor Market Information Efforts

Richard Waclawek, global director of Corporate Strategy and Business Development with Visteon Corp. since 2000, has been tapped to lead the Department of Labor & Economic Growth's newly reorganized Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

A mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Michigan, with a Master of Business Administration degree, also from U of M, Richard began his career with the Ford Motor Co., where he has been director of Business Planning for the Visteon Systems Division; vehicle line manager for the Automotive Components Group; manager of Truck Programs & Acoustics Engineering; planning and programs manager for the

European Operations Electronics Division in England; chief product analyst for Powertrain Systems/Electronics Division; and development engineer for Powertrain Components/Engine Division.

The Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives provides data such as occupational wages, job outlooks, industry forecasts and employment statistics. "High quality labor market information is critical to the Governor's efforts to grow Michigan's economy," said DLEG Director David C. Hollister. "Rick has the talent and real-world experience to help Michigan set the standard when it comes to providing proactive strategic labor market information and economic intelligence."



Richard Waclawek

# Assistant Attorney General Peter Plummer Tapped as SOAHR Executive Director

Peter Plummer, who has been an assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan since 1997, has been named executive director of the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR).

"Under Peter's leadership, SOAHR will be leading state efforts to continually evaluate policies and procedures for conducting administrative hearings and for the processing and review of administrative rules, with the goal of developing best practices in these areas," said DLEG Director David C. Hollister.

Peter has been chief assistant prosecutor for Marquette County, assistant prosecuting attorney for Marquette County, a partner in a law firm, a public defender for the Wayne County Legal Aid & Defender Association, and has held numerous teaching positions, including adjunct professor, Criminal Justice Department, Northern Michigan University, for eight years. He is a graduate of Northern Michigan University and earned a jurisdoctor degree from Wayne State University School of Law.



Peter Plummer

# Martha Glaser Named Acting WCAC Chair

Martha Glaser has been named acting chair of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission (WCAC), succeeding William G. Reamon Jr., who left the commission in mid-April (see page 7).

A commissioner with the WCAC, Martha became involved with workers' compensation and Social Security cases a year after graduating from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1985. She represented injured and disabled workers as a trial attorney and the appellate attorney with the law firm of O'Connell, Roeser and Brennan until 1996. She



then ran her own private practice until her appointment to the WCAC in 2004.

She is a long-time member of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association and the National Organization of Social Security Representatives, as well as the workers' compensation and Social Security sections of the State Bar of Michigan. She has also argued cases before the Michigan Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court, U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals.



# Take Your Child To Work Day Photos



Tyler Caldwell, son of Sherry Caldwell, an unemployment insurance examiner at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Remote Initial Claims Center in Grand Rapids, takes a break from the day's activities.



Girls ruled April 28 at the Workers' Compensation Agency! Pictured are Lauren Hazel, daughter of Darcy Hazel, in front; and, back row, l. to r., Courtnie Doty, daughter of Debbie Doty; Tiffany Granger, niece of Karen Brown; Kelly Willard, daughter of Twila Willard; and Brooke Witchell, daughter of Kathryn Witchell.



Participating in Take Your Child to Work Day activities at UIA's Problem Resolution Office in Lansing were, front row, l. to r.: Alizah Blundell, daughter of Shemin Blundell; and Allisa Derosé, granddaughter of Debbie Fossum. In the back row are Austin Alexander, grandson of Darla Harper; Sam Merchant, son of Lori Merchant; Jasmine Ford and JaJuane Ford, children of Stephanie Ford; and Camie Sigworth, daughter of Sandi Sigworth.



The Office of Financial and Insurance Services had a lot of enthusiastic participants at Take Your Child to Work Day. Pictured, front row, l. to r., are: Gabe Nichols, Collin Taber, Brianna Bishop and Taylor Bishop. Seated row: Leigha Kobus, Zachary Hart, Gideon Nichols, Aaron Malcolm, Madison White, Taylor White and Morgan Pohl. Back row: Dawn Kobus, Allison Martin, Linda Martin, Ericka Martin, Katie Martin, Jeremy Nichols, Commissioner Linda Watters, Mina Malcolm, Michelle Hart, Heidi White, Kristie Taber, Tracey Lord-Bishop and Sherry Bass-Pohl.



The Liquor Control Commission gave a warm welcome to nine youngsters. They are, front row, l. to r.: Harrison Bragdon, son of Dan Bragdon; Emilie Frank, niece of Shelly Mazurek; Sasha Platte, daughter of Arleen Platte; and Molly Maul and Evan Maul, children of Scott Maul. In the back row are Dylan Straka, son of Kelly Straka; Sarah Bauman, daughter of Diane Bauman; and Kim Martin and Kelsey Martin, daughters of Sharon Martin.



At the Waterford office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Rashna Soonavala, daughter of Anabita Lord; Breianca Wright, granddaughter of Irene Wright; and Miranda Jones, daughter of Nancy Nicholson, are happy to learn about the work their moms and grandmother do on behalf of people with disabilities.



# Take Your Child To Work Day Photos



The youngsters who visited the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) on April 28 strike a formal pose for the camera. They are, front row, l. to r.: Ana Perez, granddaughter of Evelyn Perez; Sandra Benjamin, niece of Sarah Norris; Amanda Davio, daughter of Sherri Davio; Andrea Garza, daughter of Tina Garza; and Kaila Wineland, daughter of Kerri Nobach. Middle row: Kristin Nelson, daughter of Lila King-Nelson; Grant Platte and Brandon Platte, sons of Mary Jo Platte; Susie Garza, daughter of Tina Garza; Morgan Smith, daughter of Charles Smith; Brooklyn Greene, daughter of Lisa Greene. Back row: Chelcee Couthen, daughter of Christine Finch; Saylor Henney, daughter of Katherine Henney; Tiffany Nelson, daughter of Lila King-Nelson; Angela Davio, daughter of Sherri Davio; Andrew Shutt, nephew of Debbie Irwin; Cody Hutchinson, son of Sally Hutchinson; and Ashleigh King, niece of Tiffany King.



Anita Friday, management assistant to the director of the Unemployment Insurance Agency's External Benefit Services, explains to her daughter Whitney one aspect of her job.

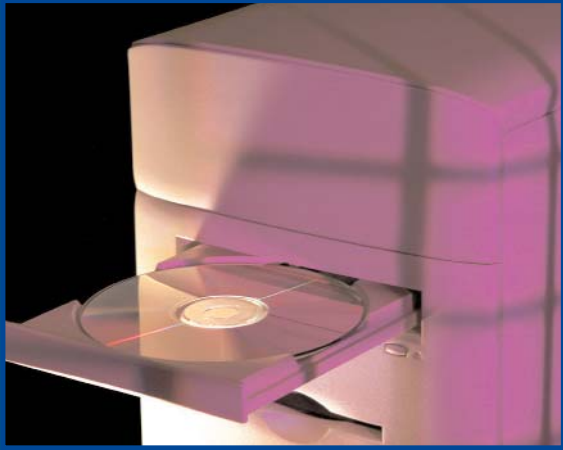


Youngsters at the Ottawa Building show off their artwork. Left to right, they are Christina Barratt and Taylor Barratt, granddaughters of Linda Cook; Stephanie Kosdrosky, niece of Christine Holmes; Dylan Cook, grandson of Linda Cook; Leigha Kobus, daughter of Dawn Kobus; Zachary Hart, son of Michelle Hart; Sabrina Tran, daughter of Vanessa Tran; Aaron Malcolm; grandson of Mina Malcolm; Chase Terwilliger, daughter of Robin Norton; Claire Amin, granddaughter of Sparky Hutting; Marissa Arndt, granddaughter of Pam Beach; Alyssa Honsowetz, daughter of Steven Honsowetz; Daniel Okun, son of Ruthanne Okun; Conor Sands, son of John Sands; Alexandria Martinez, daughter of Olivia Martinez; Erikah Alvarez, granddaughter of Cynthia Maurer; Jessica Martinez, daughter of Olivia Martinez; and Christine Coon, daughter of Gina DiNatale Coon.



Bureau of Commercial Services employees and their children strike a skyward pose. Back row from left: Jim Lotoszinski and daughter Chloe; Diane Kalisz and granddaughter Autumn Barclay, with soon-to-be aunt, Kristi Adams; Holly Caksackkar and daughter Kelsi Weaver; and Robin Armour with daughter Brittany Bobo. Second row from left: Paige Colley and son Josh; Monica Price and son P.J. Third row from left: Colleen Billington and son Bret; Kaye Thelen and son Nick; Dianne Bailey and daughter Sara. Fourth row from left: Nancy Davids with daughters Ariel and Jenna; Ann Paruk and daughter Amy; Sara Hernandez and daughter Jenelle Jones. Rounding out the front row at the right are Sharon Howell and daughter Nikki.

## 30,000 Michigan Employers Will Receive Product **MIOSHA To Provide Free Training CD-ROM**



More than 30,000 manufacturers in Michigan this fall will receive — at no charge — a high-tech CD-ROM-based interactive training program called “MIOSHA Walkthrough for Manufacturers.”

The CD provides basic safety and health awareness training and can serve as a foundation for employers to build on with their own workplace-specific policies and programs.

The Michigan Occupational

Health and Safety Administration (MIOSHA), Michigan Economic Development Corp., and the Lansing Area Safety Council are partnering with commercial donors and sponsors to bring the program to Michigan. Shipment is planned for late October.

The CD was first distributed in Ohio and has received excellent reviews. Currently being “Michiganized,” it contains interactive testing capabilities for either individual or group training.

MIOSHA’s Consultation, Education and Training Division staff have conducted a thorough review of the CD’s 21 training modules.

## **UIA Launches Second Phase of e-Registration for Employers**

The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) has successfully launched the second phase of its online tax registration process for employers.

This new phase allows nonprofit and government agencies to electronically register their organizations with UIA’s Tax Office. Filing online allows employers to receive a UIA employer account number in a matter of minutes, instead of the days it takes if they register by mail.

The agency successfully initiated Phase I last fall, permitting private, for-profit employers to register online.

Employers outside of Michigan but with employ-

ees in the state can also register their businesses online and receive an account number in minutes.

In 2004, UIA registered and issued account numbers to about 24,200 employers. More than 1,300 employers registered and received their employer account numbers online.

While e-registration benefits employers, it also helps UIA. The online process produces less work for UIA staff, allowing them to concentrate on more complicated employer registrations.

The UIA Special Projects team launched the second phase of electronic tax registrations. Karen Bagley heads the team, which includes Thomas Dorsey, Shelley Owens, Linda Vineyard, Cheryl Warren and Valerie Congdon.

Debbie Lychack, a project manager from the Department of Information Technology, also contributed greatly to the team’s success.



Members of the UIA Special Projects staff who worked on Phase II are (seated, l. to r.): Shelley Owens and Valerie Congdon; and (standing) Thomas Dorsey and Cheryl Warren. Not pictured are Karen Bagley, Linda Vineyard and Debbie Lychack.

## **Answers to Mackinac Bridge Quiz**

- 1) Five miles
- 2) November 1, 1957
- 3) 1954 (May 7)



# People on the Move

Congratulations to **Andrea Tolle**, manager of Michigan Rehabilitation Services' (MRS) Ann Arbor District. Andrea has been named manager of the Oakland District, a lateral transfer for her. She began her career with MRS as a counselor at the former Detroit Southwest and Northwest offices, then served for 13 years as site manager at Detroit West. She had been manager of the Ann Arbor District since 2000.

Congratulations to **Al Schefke**, who was recently named director of the Administrative Services Division, Bureau of Commercial Services. Al had been director of the former Office of Audit and Administrative Services, which was upgraded recently to the Administrative Services Division. Al applied for the director's position and was selected.

**Bill Reamon**, chair of the Workers' Compensation Appellate Commission (WCAC) since March 2004, has resigned to become an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration Office of Hearings and Appeals. He will be stationed in Paducah, Kentucky, where he will conduct hearings and decide cases involving Social Security disability, Supplemental Security Income and Medicare benefits. We wish Bill the best in his new position.

Happy retirement wishes to **Shirley Bass**, who retired from Michigan Rehabilitation Services' Detroit Milwaukee office last month. Shirley had been a secretary with MRS since 1994. She began her career in state government in 1981 with the former Department of Labor, then moved to the former departments of Social Services and Mental Health before joining MRS.

Congratulations to **Kelly Adams**, Enforcement Division, Bureau of Commercial Services, who has been promoted to departmental technician. She will be responsible for compliance conference scheduling, Freedom of Information Act requests, noticing of formal complaints and responding to incoming inquiries.

Congratulations to **Dennis Collins** on his recent promotion to the Safety Supervisor 13 position in the Construction Safety and Health Division, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health

Administration. Dennis has worked for MIOSHA for the past four years.

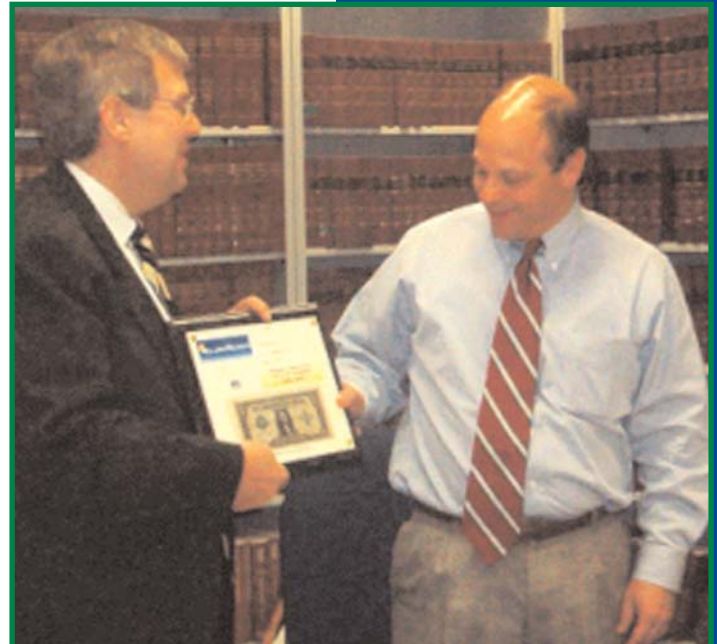
Congratulations to **LeeAnn Allaire**, an Executive Secretary 11 with the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, who has been promoted to a Departmental Trainee 9 position. LeeAnn has worked for the state for 24 years, 22 of which have been with Construction Codes and Fire Safety.

Congratulations to **Staci Smith**, who has been appointed the new program developer/web coordinator in the Consultation, Education and Training Division (CET) of MIOSHA. Staci had been a word processing assistant with CET, and prior to that, a student assistant.

The Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) has welcomed two new staff members.

**Amber Pike** is the new Lansing Regional Office secretary. She comes from DLEG's Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety. **Stephanie Lwanga**, new rehabilitation counselor at MCB's Detroit Office, was previously employed with the Department of Human Services as a foster care worker.

The Michigan Career & Technical Institute has welcomed **Jennifer Palmatier** and **Mary Howe**, new instructors in the school's Career Readiness Department. This department includes the Reading Clinic, Step Up, and Advanced Career Education.



DLEG Deputy Director David Plawecki (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Bill Reamon.

## MEDC Planning Weight Watchers Program

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. at 300 Washington Sq., Lansing, is planning to bring Weight Watchers on-site for an "at-work program" beginning in late May. Sessions will be held each Monday during the lunch hour. All interested DLEG employees are invited to participate. However, a limited number of spots are available, so sign up early. Contact Julie Fivas at [fivasj@michigan.org](mailto:fivasj@michigan.org) or 241-5954.

# MCTI Electronics Student Learns on the Job at TV Station



James Gibbs at the control board at WPBN/WTOM TV, Channels 7 and 4, Traverse City/Cheboygan.

With the emphasis in the Department of Labor & Economic Growth on internships and apprenticeships as avenues to successful careers, it is refreshing to learn about James Gibbs, a student in the Michigan Career and Technical Institute's (MCTI) Electronics training program.

Jim is doing a combination on-the-job training/co-op at a television station in northern Michigan. The folks at WPBN/WTOM TV, Channels 7 and 4, Traverse City/Cheboygan, are very pleased to have Jim training at their station.

He is paid part-time as a cameraperson and is learning master control of the TV station through his co-op training. This involves switching, processing and monitoring video and audio feed from the network, as well as satellite and live feeds. He also takes transmitter readings, copies programs and dubs commercials.

This co-operative training as a TV master control operator should make Jim eligible for a Television Engineer's Certificate from the Society of Broadcast Engineers. He already has his FCC Commercial Radiotelephone License and NARTE (National Association of Radio and Television Engineers) certification.

Broadcasting/telecommunications training through the Electronics program at MCTI prepares students for rewarding careers in broadcast operations, telephone, satellite communication, and marine and aviation electronic repair, as well as cellular and wireless networking. Jim will graduate in July with an MCTI Certificate in Electronics.

## Saginaw RICC Helps Local Shelter



Members of the Saginaw RICC "SuperStars" are, front row, l. to r.: Crystal Galloway, Sharon Stringham, Betty Wing, Rhonda Brandimore and Irene Smith; back row: Susan Bigras, Kiyomi Bennett, Kristine Strong and Deborah Coleman. Not pictured are Tammy Hills and Virginia Burton.

The Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) "SuperStars" team recently held a fund-raising effort for the Underground Railroad, a Saginaw-area shelter that provides refuge and support services for displaced women and their families.

The "SuperStars" is one of the service teams at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Saginaw RICC. Throughout March they collected, with the help of other service teams, gently worn clothing, soft toys and personal items for the shelter. More than 10 carloads of items were gathered. The "SuperStars" team then added a personal touch to the donation by putting together six individual baskets filled with toiletries such as shampoo, body wash, loofas, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

In addition to the donated goods, the Saginaw RICC raised \$485 in cash for the Underground Railroad. These funds were raised during the department-wide Casual for a Cause days.

All 11 members of the "SuperStars" team enjoy making a difference in the community. As team member Susan Bigras explained, "We talk to a lot of people throughout the day who are down on their luck. As a result, we get a great deal of satisfaction in doing charitable work. It's our compassion outlet, and it's important to each and every one of us."

The team members hope their efforts will inspire UIA staff to continue to participate in community outreach programs.



# Professional Activities

Congratulations to **Duncan Wyeth**, executive director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, who was honored Tuesday, May 3, by the Michigan Capital Area Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. The chapter selected Duncan as recipient of its 2005 award for exemplary service in state government. "Your outstanding record of service to citizens of Michigan is truly impressive," said Gregg Guetschow, chapter president. Duncan has advocated on behalf of persons with disabilities for more than 30 years. He said his guiding philosophy has been that "courses of action need to be pursued to ensure that all 1.9 million Michigan residents with disabilities can fully participate in all of the programs, services and activities that are afforded to every other citizen in our large and diverse state."



Duncan Wyeth

Congratulations to **Gloria Keene**, Licensing administrator for the Boards of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, Bureau of Commercial Services, who recently had an article published in the *Licensure Exchange*, a publication of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. Her article, "ELSEES Services Simplify Michigan Application Process," describes how her unit worked with the ELSEES program staff to pre-qualify applicants for the national examination, relieving board staff from this process, yet still allowing Michigan to qualify applicants for licensure. The changes resulted in time saving without additional costs for the department, and minimal costs for applicants.

Congratulations to **Jean Boven**, Licensing Division director, Bureau of Commercial Services, who was honored Saturday, May 14, by the Pi Alpha Alpha honors society for her outstanding work in Western Michigan University's Master of Public Administration program. Her project paper, "A Proposal to Modify Application Processes in the Michigan Licensing Division," was selected for the Outstanding Project Paper Award from among all papers submitted in 2004. Jean graduated from the program in April.

Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) Examination Manager **Shelley McCarthy** was recently recognized for her role as curriculum chairperson for a new training course, "Problem Bank School," offered by the Conference of State Supervisors (CSBS). She is an instructor and participated in the development of the new school, which was

over a year in the making. This examiner school is available to state banking department examiners from across the country. Thirty-one examiners from eight states participated in the inaugural program, which was held the week of April 4, 2005. A 16-year veteran of OFIS, Shelley works out of the East Region of the Bank and Trust Division. She is currently the lead examiner-in-charge of one of Michigan's largest institutions, a role she has had for three years.



Shelley McCarthy

Congratulations to **Lynette Barnes**, who participated in the 2005 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure despite a late spring snowstorm on Sunday, April 24, in Lansing. Lynette, a claims examiner with the Unemployment Insurance Agency, and two

friends braved the wintry weather to complete the 5K walk through the downtown area. The Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC), where Lynette works, donated its Casual Day fund for the week to the cause. Those funds, along with several individual donations, allowed Lynette to make a total contribution of \$254.

Congratulations to **Chris Rasmussen**, a domestic services aide at the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center in Kalamazoo, who received a certificate at an April 18 commission meeting for 35 years of state service. Chris has worked at the training center during his entire 35 years with the state.

The new MiInternship website at <http://www.michigan.gov/miintern>, which helps students find internships in our state, is up and running. Congratulations and thanks to those who did the nuts and bolts work to make this site happen: **Ardis Cazeno**, **Felicia Quinn** and **Michael Nimmons**, Bureau of Workforce Programs; **Maura Campbell**, Media & Public Relations; **Penny Stump** and **Rosalyn Jones**, Michigan Economic Development Corp.; **Emily Fleury**, Governor's Office; and **Howard Boyer** and **Susan Luks**, Department of Information Technology.



Lynette Barnes participated in the 2005 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure



## Tornado Season Is Upon Us

# Because People Help Each Other

By Martin D. Alexander, CHS-III

*Marty Alexander, Enforcement Division District Supervisor of the Liquor Control Commission in Lansing, holds a Level III Certification in Homeland Security from the American College of Forensic Examiners International.*

As we approach the season of the year when severe weather plays havoc in our communities, it is useful to remind everyone that preparation reduces the risk from severe weather events such as tornadoes. The United States has more occurrences of tornadoes than any other country in the world — more than one thousand each year (<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=17223>).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that persons living in areas susceptible to tornado activity plan early for such disasters. Michigan is located in an area where there is a high likelihood of tornadoes.

Now is the time to plan. Community plans are models for smaller units such as households and work sites. Try getting involved. By becoming involved in pre-disaster planning, we reduce disaster risk and strengthen the bonds of the community, business and household. We are better prepared for disasters because we know what to expect and are ready.

The National Weather Service will issue a **tornado watch** when one may possibly occur, and provide up-to-date information through radio, television and its website, <http://www.nsw.noaa.gov/alert/mi/html>. Review your plan with others nearby. Discuss where the safest place is to seek shelter, where disaster supplies are kept, and how to contact one another should you become separated.

Watch for changing weather conditions and the approaching storm. The clouds may become dark and the sky may appear green. There may be large hail.

By planning early, we have an opportunity to work out any snags that would affect everyone's safety. We should conduct tornado drills each season. This is especially important for children in school, at home or elsewhere. They develop a sense of confidence that comes from practice and leadership. Their fear level is tempered by knowledge.

FEMA publishes an excellent website for children at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/pets.htm>. The site helps children understand the evacuation procedure, if such action is necessary. It also helps them to prepare a "pet disaster kit" for animals under their care, including birds and reptiles, during a tornado emergency.

Doppler radar may detect meteorological conditions that accurately predict the formation of a tornado. Or, if a tornado has been sighted, a **tornado warning** is issued. This means risk is imminent, and we have only a short amount of time to put our plan into action. Occasionally, the amount of time between the warning and impact may be as little as five or 10 minutes.

Be aware of large, dark, rotating clouds that may be relatively close to the ground. If unseen, a tornado may sound like a loud roar, often described as similar to a freight train.

What to do during a tornado warning: Take shelter immediately. If in a building, go to the pre-designated shelter, the basement, or a safe room in the house away from windows, doors and exterior walls. If in a mobile home, trailer or car, get out immediately and seek shelter in the lowest floor of a building. If you are outside and no shelter is available, lie flat in a low-lying ditch. Cover your head with both hands. Most injuries and fatalities are caused by flying debris.

To build a safe room in your house, check <http://www.fema.gov/mit/saferoom/>.

## Sign Up for 'Wellness at Work' Events

May has been a busy month for Wellness at Work events. Still coming up:

"Receive a Massage," 10- to 15-minute chair massage for \$1 a minute. Appointments are available all day May 19 at the Ottawa Building in Room 406, and on May 24 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in Room 405; contact Amber Lemon at [alemon@michigan.gov](mailto:alemon@michigan.gov) to sign up.

For Victor Building employees, chair massages are available on May 24 from 9 to 11 a.m.; contact Teri McNea at [McNeaT@michigan.gov](mailto:McNeaT@michigan.gov) to sign up.

"Improving Fitness While at the Office" will be held from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on May 25 in Conference Rooms A and B, third floor, Victor Building. You will learn functional moves to do at your desk to improve strength and coordination.



# Audio Streaming Brings Positive Feedback

**By Patrick Cannon, State Director  
Michigan Commission for the Blind**

During our April 18 commission meeting at the training center in Kalamazoo, the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) had its debut live on the World Wide Web. Anyone with access to the Internet was able to hear live audio streaming of the entire meeting through a link on our Web site.

I'm not certain how many agencies in state government have provided this type of service, but I think it's fair to say that MCB is taking a leading role in making our meetings open to convenient and accessible cyber-attendance.

According to our data, approximately 30 people accessed the live audio link, and several of these individuals took the time to send their thanks and compliments. Joe Harez, a member of MCBVI (Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired), commented, in part, "I am writing this open letter to applaud the use of live streaming on the Internet of the Michigan Commission for the Blind meeting yesterday. As an advocate of open government in general and

access to government activities to those of us who are blind, visually impaired, or those with any disability, I cannot express how strongly I support this sort of access. I also urge its continuation and expansion both within MCB and through leadership to other agencies of Michigan state government."

Casey Dutmer, member of MCBVI and chair of MCB's Consumer Involvement Council, said, "I listened to most of the meeting. The quality was very good. My only problem is I lost the connection several times and had to reopen the link. I hope more meetings are streamed."

Thanks are due to many individuals who had a key role in making our premier audio streaming event a success. Special thanks to Jo Ann Pilar-ski, our commission chairperson, for calling for audio streaming of the April 18 meeting. Thanks also to Mike Ellis of ME Enterprises, Sherri Heibeck, Roger Yake, Susan Turney, Sharon Malone (DIT) and John Henry (DIT) for helping to make this happen.

We are currently exploring ways to feature live audio streaming on a continuing basis.

## MCTI Grounds Maintenance Students Gain Training Experience at Mackinac

The Michigan Career and Technical Institute's (MCTI) Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping program collaborated with Mackinac State Historical Parks (MSHP) this spring to provide students with a unique training experience. Ten students and two staff traveled from the Plainwell-area campus 300 miles north.

The group, led by Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Department Head/Instructor Bob Vaccaro and Leisure Services Counselor Bob Mitchell, transported equipment and provisions on April 24 for a week-long skills training session to assist state park personnel.

Half the group, under the direction of Bob Vaccaro, stayed in Mackinaw City and assisted Site Manager Mike Sutton and his crew with grounds and janitorial work on the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's residence; the Fog Signal House; the 11-acre park; and the visitor's center. The group also worked on Colonial Fort Michilimackinac.

Bob Mitchell led his group to Mackinac Island. There they teamed with Dan Cook, Mackinac Island State Park manager. The group met poor weather conditions the first three days, but worked inside Fort Mackinac's buildings, where they cleaned windows, vacuumed, dusted artifacts and helped clean and prepare restrooms. The group also prepared the grounds of the Governor's summer residence.

At the end of the week, Mike Sutton and Dan Cook presented their respective groups with merit certificates at lunch. All tolled, 432 hours were spent in grounds and custodial. A successful training session was completed and everyone seemed pleased. Plans are being made for other MCTI training area collaborations with MSHP. Another positive outcome is that two MCTI graduates have now been hired by MSHP.



Participating in the training at Mackinac were, front row, l. to r.: Mike Sutton, Neil Hoagland, Mike Towner, Bob Vaccaro, Cris Owens, Darrin Spring, Larry Pawlowski, Greg Stienner and Marty Peterson; back row: John Chambers and Mark Rozema. Not pictured are Dan Cook, Bob Mitchell, Zac Foley, Mike Flowers, Neil Davis, Anthony Goudenough and Mark Morrissey.

# Thanks, DLEG, from Many Cats and Dogs!



A huge thanks to all DLEG employees who contributed to Casual Wednesdays for a Cause during April, when the Capital Area Humane Society was the designated charity. Diane Bauman with the Liquor Control Commission made the suggestion.

A total of \$1,093.70 was raised to help the humane society care for cats and dogs and place them in good homes.

This month — May — the American Diabetes Association is the designated charity; it was an anonymous suggestion. For June, it will be the

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, suggested by Angela Simpson, Liquor Control Commission.

These charities were the highest vote getters from all of the suggestions voted on in DLEG's recent intranet charity poll.

Please make sure you get to vote in the next poll by logging onto <http://connect.michigan.gov/dleg>, then checking the upper left hand corner of your screen. If you are welcomed by name, you are logged in and are getting the most out of our intranet. But if it says "Welcome, Guest," you need to sign in. If you can't remember your password, click on the "Help" tab.

## Detroit RICC Presents Check to Red Cross



At the Red Cross check presentation are, l. to r., Jerry Huey of the American Red Cross and RICC employees Antonia Brown, Ebony Thomas, Jacob Pastor and Darlene Thompson.

The Unemployment Insurance Agency staff at the Detroit Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) recently held a series of fundraisers to benefit the American Red Cross and its efforts to help victims of the December 2004 Asian tsunami.

In January and February, the center staff was encouraged to dress casually every Wednesday for a \$2 donation. Many took advantage of the opportunity to help a great cause while "dressing down" and raised \$502 for the Red Cross.

In March, four staff representing the RICC delivered the check to Jerry Huey, director of Health and Safety Services for the American Red Cross, who said the money would go toward the purchase of food, water, medical supplies, blankets and tents for first aid stations.

## Pulitzer Prize Winner Has Ties to DLEG

The Pulitzer Prize is the most coveted award in American journalism, and this year, there is a DLEG tie to one of the winners.

Charles Ornstein, son of Workers' Compensation Magistrate Alexander Ornstein, was one of the *Los Angeles Times* reporters who helped the paper win a Pulitzer Prize in the public service category.

Charles was on the team that earned the award for a five-part series about the Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles County. The center provided such poor health care that it sickened and even endangered the lives of some patients.

Since the series was published in December, a national accrediting organization has stripped the hospital of its seal of approval, and federal regulators have threatened to pull \$200 million in funding.

The paper received a gold medal for public service — considered the highest honor issued by the Pulitzer board. Pulitzer Prizes are awarded annually for outstanding work in journalism and the arts and are presented by the trustees of Columbia University.



Alexander Ornstein



Charles Ornstein



# Special Deliveries

## Greg Stahman Noted for Professional Manner

Congratulations to Gregory Stahman, an examiner in the Bank and Trust Division of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services, Upper Peninsula, who has been presented with a Special Delivery from the Director.

Greg was nominated by Bank and Trust Division Assistant Director Gary Thielsen, who

said that Greg had been praised in a letter from Neil J. Beckman, president of Gogebic Range Bank in Bessemer. Mr. Beckman wrote, "We would like you to know that once again the examination was completed in a very professional manner and we appreciate the assistance your staff have provided us to date."



Greg Stahman

## Brenda Lampman Described as "Ray of Sunshine"

Congratulations to Brenda Lampman, a personnel management assistant in the Office of Human Resources, who was nominated for a Special Delivery from the Director by Nancy Benjamin, recently retired executive secretary in the Office of Media and Public Affairs.

Nancy wrote, "Brenda has gone beyond the line of duty to help me get all the paperwork done correctly so that I can retire and still have health insurance. Brenda has always been willing to

help me if I had questions about time keeping. She is always polite and patient. She is the ray of sunshine that makes people that come in contact with her glad that they have had the chance to work with her. I wish we could clone Brenda. She is an excellent example of a great state employee."



Celebrating Brenda Lampman's Special Delivery are, first row, l. to r.: Carol Botke, Brenda, Patricia Gamin; center row: Irma Davaloz, Jennifer Farr, Katy Crews and Angie Draper; and back row: Dale Beachneau, Ken Vasilnek, Rita Canady, Lynn Simons and Frank Russell.

### "Special Delivery from the Director"

I would like to nominate the following staff member to receive a "Great Job" acknowledgement from the Director:

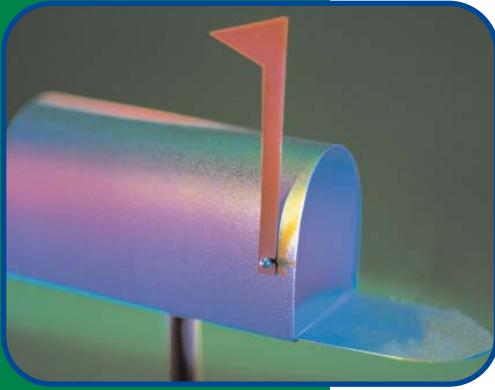
Name of Nominee:	Submitted By:
Office/Bureau of Nominee	Job Title of Nominee
Telephone # of Nominator	Office Location of Nominee

The reason I am nominating this person:

Office/Bureau Director:	Date:

Bureau Directors: Forward to Linda Cook—DLEG Media Office, 4th Floor, Ottawa Building, Lansing  
E-mail: CookL1@Michigan.gov --OR-- FAX: 517-241-1580; Phone: 517-241-0199

# We Get Letters ... and E-mails!



DLEG Deputy Director **Dennis Sykes** received this letter regarding **Ruthanne Okun**, director of the Bureau of Employment Relations: "I am writing to compliment Ruthanne Okun for the role she played in the recent representation involving the MQCCC, the SEIU, and the 42,000 employees of the MQCCC. Obviously, this was a complex and high profile election campaign and it came off virtually without a hitch. I felt that we

worked well with MERC staff, and that when it was necessary to do so, Director Okun made herself available to us to address immediate concerns over important, albeit sometimes minor, concerns over election procedures. I just wanted to thank you again for the effective effort of the leadership of the Department in conducting this election in a clean, fair, and effective manner."

**Milli Kennedy**, secretary at the Lansing office, Bureau of Employment Relations, was complimented in this e-mail message sent by a member of the public: "I just had to take a minute to thank you again for helping me get the state form I needed. It's refreshing and appreciated when nice people are willing to go an extra step or two in order to help someone through a minor 'crisis.' If every transaction I have this week is as pleasant and as fruitful as ours, I'll be smiling all the way through the weekend. You're a sweet lady and a credit to the state."

This e-mail message was sent to the **Office of Media Technology**, which produces The Job Show: "My thanks to the producers and host of The Job Show. I saw it for the first time today flipping channels after Mass. I am a Life Skills Teacher at Clarenceville Middle School in Livonia, MI, and part of my job is to teach career awareness to 6th and 8th graders. I was very enlightened by your program about Veterinary Technicians. I had no idea their job description encompassed such a wide variety of skills and how much support they afforded the Veterinarian. In my middle school, there are so many students who want to be Veterinarians (because of their love for animals), who will never be able to make the cut into med school, but the Tech. Position is a wonderful compromise, if they are willing to take the lower pay scale that comes with it. Thanks for your service to the community."

Staff at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Lansing Problem Resolution Office (PRO) received a number of very favorable comments recently. A caller from Indiana spoke to

**Stephanie Ford** and later commented, "She [Stephanie] was a lot of help and really worked through the problem with my claim. We need more people like her!" A visitor to the PRO from Lansing wrote that **Treyna Duke** and **Carol Doxtader** provided "very good service and excellent help!" Another Lansing area visitor to the PRO wrote, "**Cindy Mast** was very helpful and patient" in helping to understand some information in the *Unemployment Benefits in Michigan* booklet. Finally, one visitor offered a comment about the entire **Lansing PRO** by saying, "The staff was very courteous and helpful and willing to do whatever pleased the client."

DLEG Director **David Hollister** received this letter from a member of the general public who had filed a complaint against a residential builder: "I am writing in regard to **Forrest Maher**, who is currently working on a complaint my husband and I filed ... I have been in contact with Forrest Maher on a couple of occasions in reference to our complaint ... and found him to be very pleasant, polite and helpful. As a compliance professional myself, I know that it seems the only time a state or federal office receives contact from the public or a business, it seems to involve a complaint. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I think Mr. Maher is a valuable asset to your team of professionals. While I believe he is proficient in state compliance issues, I have sincerely appreciated his kind and respectful manner during what has been a stressful situation. Thank you." [Forrest is an analyst with the Enforcement Division, Bureau of Commercial Services.]

**Robert Engle**, manager of the Customer Service Section, Corporation Division, Commercial Services, received a telephone call from an attorney: "[She] called to say what great service she received. She contacted us yesterday regarding a \$7 million transaction, which her law firm was handling for a major company, requesting a pre-clearance and expedited service for an amendment for certificate of designation on preferred stock. She had raves for the knowledge, professionalism, and efficiency of **Sally Wah**, **Jodie Gillespie**, and **Chris Kuhlman**, who assisted her at the front counter. The expedited turnaround time of two business hours was beyond their expectations and they were most grateful."

**Marcele Edington**, assistant to Licensing Director **Jean Boven**, Commercial Services, received praise recently from an attorney who had called to receive instructions on how to file a builder's license application with special circumstances. The attorney told Jean that Marcelle was "professional, concerned about his issue, and extremely helpful."



# More Letters ... and E-mails!

A regular customer of the Corporation Division, Commercial Services, sent a note to Division Director **Ann Baker** complimenting **Jennifer Gollbach's** "always timely assistance." The note also said, "I would like to say that my experience with the Bureau of Commercial Services has been a positive one. Your staff exemplifies the high level of courtesy, service and expertise that business desires."

**Kelly Adams** with the Compliance/Legal/FOIA Section, Enforcement Division, Commercial Services, received a note of thanks, which said, "Thank you so much for all the great help and to put this behind us. I commend you on your follow through and will send my senator this great feedback!"

**Mark Doman**, manager of the Safety Inspection Unit, Enforcement Division, Commercial Services, was complimented in this letter following a presentation he made to Gogebic Community College's Ski Area Management class: "We would like to bring to your attention the outstanding job that Mr. Doman has done for our Ski Industry in the State of Michigan. It has been very enjoyable to work with Mark. His enthusiasm and sincere interest in providing a higher level of service to ski resorts in Michigan has been refreshing. We hope that Mr. Doman will continue to be a resource person for our Ski Area Management program, in our effort to provide good, dedicated and well trained employees for the Ski Industry."

A client of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) wrote this note to **Jean McCullough**, a counselor at the Jackson MRS office: "I wanted to write this letter to you to say thank you for all that you have done for me. Without your support and encouragement, I would not be graduating college or even attending college for that matter. I am so thankful for the opportunity that I received by being placed with you. You are very good at your job and have a wonderful attitude and disposition. Again, thank you so much."

A relative of a client of the MRS Lansing office sent a card to Counselor **Maria VandenBoom** with this note: "Thank you for your kind words about [name of client]. Your office was one of the first places that he tried to learn again."

An electronics graduate of the Michigan Career & Technical Institute (MCTI) sent this letter to MCTI Electronics Instructors **Phil Schmitt** and **Tim Shiery**: "Thank you for making an extra effort helping me get an education that landed me a good job. I have been working at Aeroflex Inmet as an Electronics Technician for five months now. The electronics program at MCTI provides the proper skills and training that my employer was looking for. I would

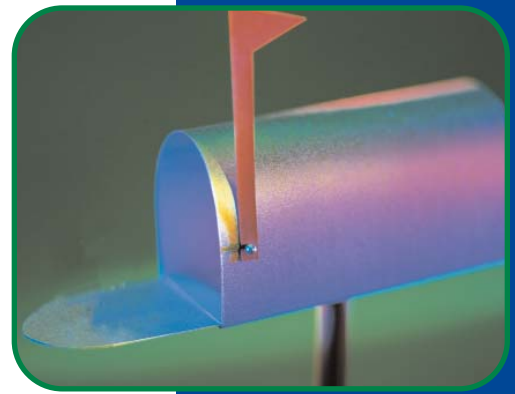
especially like to thank you, Phil, for helping me get my Commercial FCC license and for taking the extra time to provide me further opportunity to learn. My employer required skills in the areas that my FCC license covers. I am certain that I had a leg up on the others who applied for this position because of my education. Thanks again for a job well done."

**Irene Wright**, site manager of the Waterford MRS office, received this note: "I am sending this note to acknowledge the superior service being given my son by Mrs. **Marguerite Watson**. She has a very professional attitude and carries through. I feel that he is now in good hands and look forward to his success in finding (& keeping) the right job with her help."

A client of the Midland MRS office sent this note to Site Manager **Dave Corcoran**: "Thank you for taking the time to meet with me last week. It was important to me to be able to say thank you in person. I especially wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the manner in which my counselor, **Alexa Matthews**, handled my case. All of the employees at MRS have been professional, upbeat and highly skilled in working with people, but Alexa makes you feel like she really cares about your well-being and sincerely wants to do whatever she can to help you. Once again, I want to express my gratitude for being provided with hearing aids. Without them, I would have lost all hope of being able to regain my hearing or of being able to remain at my job. Now I can hear people without having to read their lips or having to ask them to repeat themselves over and over. My ability to hear on the phone has greatly increased, too. I am so grateful that I can hear again. It means so much more than words can say."

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) received a note from Oakland University, where **Richard Zdeb**, Consultation, Education and Training Division, had spoken to the students. The note said: "Richard Zdeb did a dynamite job! The students were captivated by his 'expressive delivery' and were most inquisitive about the subject matter that he covered. He went over the Top 25 Serious Violations and also covered Machine Guarding."

The president of Dickinson Homes, Inc., Kingsford, sent this letter to MIOSHA Director **Doug Kalinowski**: "I just wanted to thank you for publishing the 'MIOSHA News.' As a smaller company with limited resources, we have increased our knowledge of safety from the informative articles. In addition, we have used articles from the News for safety training purposes. Thank you again and keep up the good work!"



# You Could Be Governor Granholm's Running Mate!

MACKINAC BRIDGE RUN - LABOR DAY



## 2005 Labor Day Bridge Run

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (Must be 18 on or before Labor Day)

While the event is not a timed race, it is important that representatives have completed other running events of equal or greater distance and know they are able to finish the run without assistance. Runners must run the entire distance.

I certify that I am able to run five miles without stopping.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Selected representatives will be named by Friday, May 27.

1. To qualify, you must be an employee of DLEG.

2. Please complete form and return to DLEG Media & Public Relations via one of the following options:

- Fax to: 517-241-1580

- ID Mail Address: 611 W. Ottawa Bldg., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lansing, MI

- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30004 Lansing, MI 48909

3. DEADLINE IS 5 p.m., Friday, May 20.

4. Two representatives and two alternates will be selected randomly from all of the DLEG entries to represent the department while running with Gov. Granholm in the 2005 Labor Day Bridge Run.